Sopore Incident

1092. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the version of the B.S.F., the J & K Police and the State Government of J & K about the Sopore incident of 6th January, 1993;

(b) whether Government have accepted the versions of the aforesaid authorities;

(c) whether any judicial enquiry been ordered into the incident; and

(d) if so, what are terms of reference of the Commission of Enquiry and whether the residents of the Sopore expressed willingness to co-operate with the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) A one man Inquiry Commission headed by Mr. Justice Amarjeet Chaudhary, a Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court has been set up by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to enquire into the incident at Sopore on 6th January, 1993. According to terms of reference the Commission shall enquire into:

(i) The facts and circumstances relating and leading to the events and incidents of January 6, 1993 in Sopore town, District Baramulla which resulted in loss of life, bodily injuries and damage to the property;

(ii) The extent of loss of life and the injuries caused to persons, resulting from the incidents, and causes thereof;

(iii) The cause and extent of the damage by fire to the residential houses, commercial establishments and other property.

(iv) Quantum of force used by the security personnel on duty and to examine whether it was commensurate with the requirements of the situation, if not, fix the responsibility thereof;

(v) To suggest remedial measures to prevent the recurrence of such events.

The Commission is likely to begin its enquiry shortly. It is, therefore, not possible to give any comments in respect of the cooperation of the people of Sopore with the enquiry or otherwise.

Since a judicial enquiry has been instituted, it would not be appropriate to say anything about the version of the B.S.F., the J&K Police, the State Government or any other person or persons in respect of the incident.

Amnesty International's Observation Regarding Human Rights in India

1093. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an advertisement appearing in the INDEPENDENT, London, of 28th January, 1993, in which, inter alia, Amnesty International has been quoted as saying that men, women and even children in Kashmir are beaten in a senseless manner given electric shocks and have their limbs crushed by heavy rollers;

(b) what is the reaction of Government to the said advertisement; and

(c) what concrete steps have been taken by Government to prevent the country's image from being sullied abroad by such false and vicious propoganda?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: (a) to (c) We are aware of the advertisement in question. The matter was taken up with the newspaper by the High Commission. The newspaper has clarified that the Advertisements do not necessarily reflect their views, and according to their policy